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Long Forgotten or Still Among us: The Influence of Modern Alchemy in The Name of the Wind

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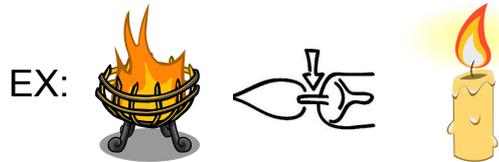
Long Forgotten or Still Among Us: An Exploration of Alchemy in The Name of the Wind.

By Angie Kaufmann Faculty Sponsor Dr. Bovaird-Abbo

The Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss is the story of a young boy who studies at the renowned University, where he learns Alchemy in the form of Sympathy and Binding magic.

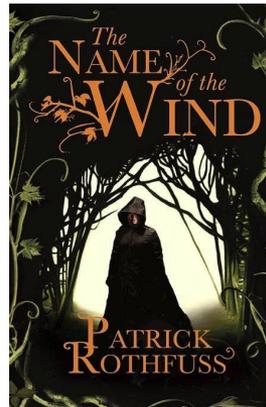
Binding Magic and Sympathy Magic

Sympathy magic can be summarized as drawing energy from a source and transferring it with your mind using binding magic. A simple example with minimal binding is using a brazier as a source, a wick as a link, and thus lighting a candle



Research Question:

How does Patrick Rothfuss use the influence of modern Alchemy in his novel?



What is Burning Man?

A festival celebrated in the Nevada Desert every year, in which people dress up and stay overnight for multiple days, braving the elements. The Highlight is the burning of an extremely large, wooden effigy of a man.

The event focuses on personal transformation and many people describe what happens at the event as “alchemy”



Alchemy has historically been associated with the search for the Philosopher’s Stone and the changing of metals. Now, the principles of Chemistry and the use of elements are often called Modern Alchemy.

How Does it All Relate?

Burning man operates along the same principles as Sympathy magic in the novel. Both are about transformation using fire (heat). In 2007, the year the novel was first published, Burning Man decided to make the theme Alchemy, a very fitting theme when compared to the alchemy used in *The Name of the Wind*. In the years leading to the publication of the book, Burning Man increased in popularity and media coverage, therefore, it is likely that some inspiration was drawn from this modern display of human control over elements, or modern alchemy. Thus, Rothfuss uses both modern alchemy and historical alchemy principles (binding magic) in the novel.